Koepcke, M. 1965. Zur Kenntnis einiger Furnariiden (Aves) der Kuste und des westlichen Andenabhanges Perus (mit Beschreibungen neuer Subspezies). *Beitr. Z. Neotrop. Fauna* 4: 150–173.
Koepcke, M. 1970. *The Birds of the Department of Lima, Peru*. Livingston.
Meyer de Schauensee, R. 1966. *The Species of Birds of South America and their Distribution*. Livingston.
Morrison, A. 1948. Notes on the birds of the Pampas River Valley, south Peru. *Ibis* 90: 119–126.
Nores, M., Yzurieta, D. & Miatello, R. 1983. Lista y distribucion de las aves de Córdoba, Argentina. *Bol. Acad. Nac. Cien., Córdoba* 56: 1–114.
Olrog, C. C. 1979. Nueva lista de la avifauna argentina. *Opera Lilloana* 27.
Parker, T. A. III, Schulenberg, T. S., Graves, G. R. & Braun, M. J. 1985. *The avifauna of the Huancabamba region, northern Peru*. *In* Buckley, P. A. *et al.* (Eds) Neotropical Ornithology. *Ornith. Monog.* 36.
Paynter, R. A. Jr, & Traylor, M. A. Jr. 1977. *Ornithological Gazeteer of Ecuador*. Mus. Comp. Zool.: Cambridge, Massachusetts.
Pearson, D. L. & Plenge, M. A. 1974. Puna bird species on the coast of Peru. *Auk* 91: 626–631.
Plenge, M. A. 1974. Notes on some birds in west-central Perú. *Condor* 76: 326–330.
Plenge, M. A., Parker, T. A. III, Hughes, R. A. & O'Neill, J. P. In press. Additional notes on the distribution of birds in west-central Peru. *Gerfaut*.
Ripley, S. D. 1963. Subfamily Turdinae. *In* Mayr, E. & Paynter, R. A. Jr (Eds) *Check-list of Birds of the World*. Mus. of Comp. Zool.: Cambridge, Massachusetts.
Schulenberg, T. S. & Parker, T. A. III. 1981. Status and distribution of some northwest Peruvian birds. *Condor* 83: 209–216.
Schulenberg, T. S., Parker, T. A. III & Hughes, R. A. In press. First records of Least Tern for Peru. *Gerfaut*.
Stephens, L. & Traylor, M. A. Jr 1983. *Ornithological Gazetteer of Peru*. Mus. Comp. Zool.: Cambridge, Massachusetts.
Taczanowski, L. 1882. Liste des oiseaux recueillis par M. Stolzmann au Pérou nord-oriental. *Proc. Zool. Soc. London* 1882: 2–49.
Terborgh, J. W., Fitzpatrick, J. W. & Emmons, L. 1984. Annotated checklist of bird and mammal species of Cocha Cashu Biological station, Manu National Park, Peru. *Fieldiana* 1352.
Traylor, M. A. Jr. 1979. Tyrannidae. *In* Traylor, M. A., Jr (Ed) *Check-list of Birds of the World*. Vol 8. Mus. Comp. Zool. Cambridge, Massachusetts.
Vaurie, C. 1972. An ornithological gazetteer of Peru (based on information compiled by J. T. Zimmer). *Amer. Mus. Novit.* 2491: 1–36.
Zimmer, J. T. 1941. Studies of Peruvian birds. No 37. The genera *Sublegatus, Phaeomyias, Campostoma, Xanthomyias, Phyllomyias,* and *Tyranniscus*. *Amer. Mus. Novit.* 1109: 1–25.

Address: Thomas S. Schulenberg, Museum of Zoology, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana USA 70803.

IN BRIEF (1)

Colonel Meinertzhagen's wing drawings

"Many years ago, during the last years of the First World War, I conceived the idea of writing up the many aspects of Bird Migration, embodying all recorded facts and certain observations of my own" (R. Meinertzhagen, unpublished Ms). As an essential component of the information which he

needed for this huge enterprise, only a small part of which was ever completed (*Ibis* 97 (1955): 81-117, on the speed and altitude of bird flight), Colonel Meinertzhagen systematically recorded data on the weight, wing-length, wing-shape and wing-area of birds, meticulously making tracings of the spread wings of birds which he collected. When I visited him at his house in Kensington Park Gardens in the early 1950s, he showed me the files and drawings containing this mass of information. Its potential value to ornithology was very evident.

Late in 1963 Col. Meinertzhagen, perhaps knowing that he himself would never be able to make full use of this great collection of data, generously sent the whole of it to Dr Glen W. Shaefer, who was at that time studying bird migration by radar, with the aim of identifying species by their radar echoes, and needed information on wing dimensions. Dr Shaefer kept the material after Col. Meinertzhagen's death in 1967, apparently continuing to work on it (it seems that nothing has yet been published), until he himself tragically died, comparatively young, on 25 July 1986. He was then Director of the Ecological Physics Research Group at the Cranfield Institute of Technology. With the agreement of Dr Theresa Clay, Col. Meinertzhagen's executor, the whole collection of wing drawings and accompanying data has come to the Sub-department of Ornithology, British Museum (Natural History), at Tring, where it is available for study by *bona fide* students, on application to the Librarian.

Some idea of the scope of the data will be apparent from the following details. The species of birds covered are mainly Palaearctic and Afrotropical; altogether some 440 species are represented, the great majority being Palaearctic. For each species there is a very carefully executed drawing of the spread wing (in standard form and extension, so that they are comparable one with another), and a quantity of tabulated data.The tabulated data include, for each individual bird, sex, locality, month, weight (g), wing-length (mm), wing expanse (mm), and area of both spread wings (mm^2), with some ancillary data, e.g. if the bird was breeding, immature, emaciated, etc. In the great majority of cases, the specimens on which the data are based are in the skin collection at Tring. Some species are represented by only one set of data, for one individual; for others there is a considerable sample. Thus there is information for 25 individual Dabchicks *Tachybaptus ruficollis* from Britain (nominate subspecies), and 20 from India and Burma (*capensis*); 17 Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus* from northern Europe, and 17 Tibetan Snowcock *Tetraogallus himalayensis* from Kashmir. For some species several subspecies are represented: for example for the Chukar Partridge *Alectoris graeca,* there are data for 20 *chukar* (northern India), 11 *pallescens* (Ladakh), 7 *cypriotes* (Crete and Israel), 7 *sinaica* (Jericho, Sinai), 15 *philbyi* (Arabia) and 7 *koroviakovi* (Quetta). Comparative data for different populations of Palaearctic migrant species, with different migratory patterns, should be of especial interest; thus for the Common Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* there are samples of 40 *O.o. oenanthe,* 10 *O.o. virago* (Crete), 31 *O.o. leucorrhoa* (3 Greenland, others on migration), 4 *O.o. rostrata* (East Africa) and 12 *O.o. phillipsi* (Somaliland).

It is to be hoped that in the coming years students of bird flight and migration will consult this unique collection of drawings and tables, and so put it to the use that Col. Meinertzhagen intended, over 70 years ago.

British Museum (Natural History)
Tring
Herts HP23 6AP, UK

D. W. Snow
25 June 1987

IN BRIEF (2)

The authorship of the raptor name *Circaetus fasciolatus*

The Fasciated Snake Eagle (Southern Banded Snake Eagle) *Circaetus fasciolatus* was initially proposed by G. R. Gray, *Cat. Accipitr. Brit. Mus.*, 1848: 18, where the name is a *nomen nudum*. Peters, *Check-list of Birds of the World*, 1, 1931: 270, credited validation of the binomen to Gurney (*Ibis*, 1861: 130), which view is likewise adopted by Stresemann & Amadon, in the second edition of *Peters*, 1, 1979: 310. Most recent authors, however, including Clancey (Ed), *S.A.O.S. Checklist of Southern African Birds*, 1980: 38 and Wolters, *Die Vogelarten der Erde*, 1976: 86, *inter alia*, ascribe the valid introduction of Gray's binomen to J. J. Kaup in his 'Monograph of the Falconidae' in Jardine, *Contributions to Ornithology*, 3, 1850: 72, in the combination *Circaetus fasciolatus*, listed in the subgenus *Spilornis* G. R. Gray, 1840. The type-specimen of *fasciolatus* is a relaxed mounted specimen from Port Natal=Durban, Natal, in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), Tring, purchased from the dealer Argent (*vide* Warren, *Type-specimens, Birds, British Museum (Nat. Hist.)*, 1 (Non-passerines), 1966: 96). Judging from the date of the specimen's accession – 1845 – the accepted type-specimen of *C. fasciolatus* Kaup, 1850, is the same skin as was available to Gray in 1848.

Kaup's validation of *fasciolatus* in terms of the requirements of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* has priority over that of Gurney (1861), and cannot be set aside because the introduction of the name is accompanied by a short description, which reads: "Neck-feathers pointed; lower breast, belly, and tibial feathers white, with ash-gray rufous broad bars," while the type-locality (Port Natal) is cited. This latter action is based on the Argent and only skin in the British Museum at the time (1850). Gurney (*loc. cit.*) also provides a brief description and lists a second specimen from Natal (taken in October 1858). His descriptive statement states that *C. fasciolatus* is "readily distinguished from *Circaëtus zonurus* (=*Circaetus cinerascens* von Müller, 1851) by the greater length of its tail, and by the five dark bands with which the tail is transversely marked, as well as by the anterior part of the inside of the wing adjacent to the carpal joint being transversely marked with brownish-grey bars, instead of being white".

The authority of *Peters' Check-list*, 1 (second edition), 1979, notwithstanding, attribution of the name of the present snake eagle must stand as hereunder given: